(c) The value of contraband seized during the last 3 years on the East Coast and Gujarat Coast are given below :—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Gujarat Coast	East Coast
1990	2.00	162.48
1991	6.68	112.63
1992*	10.01*	129.33*

*(Figures are provisional)

Separate figures for Kutch Coast alone are not maintained.

The number of persons arrested throughout the country during the last 3 years of 1990, 1991 and 1992 for being involved in smuggling activities are given below ;—

Year	*No. of persons arrested*
1990	3284
1991	2358
1992	1805 (Prov.)

Separate figures for the East Coast and Kutch are not maintained.

I. T. Defaulters

3513. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN ; Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the names of the first ten defaulters of Income Tax; and

(b) what is the action taken against each of them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) and Ob) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Request for Exemption from Payment of Interest

3514. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh have requested to exempt A.P. State Housing Corporation Ltd. and A.P. Urban Development and Housing Corporation Ltd. engaged in weaker sections' housing from the payment of interest tax on interest chargeable; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter pertaining to exemption of interest on loans to economically weaker sections from interest tax was examined in general, as part of budget exercise. It was decided that there was no need for exempting housing finance corporations from interest tax. The housing corporations can subsidise the weaker sections by charging higher interest from other groups and interest tax exemption is not the appropriate measure for helping the weaker section.

Central Assistance to Bihar

3515. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA :

DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the fiscal crisis in the State of Bihar is seriously hampering the developmental plans of the State; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to rescue the State from the financial crisis indicating (i) the States share of central assistance released as against the outstanding dues; and (ii) the amount of coal cess released as against the dues and the reasons for not releasing the State's dues in full ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) After discussion on 22-1-1992 between the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and the Chief Minister of Bihar, Annual Plan of Bihar for 1992-93 was approved at Rs. 2202.73 crores to be financed with State's own resources of Rs. 574.25 crores and Central support of Rs. 1628.48 crores. On the request of the State Government, the Annual Plan has been recently revised downwards from Rs. 2202.73 crores to Rs. 1100 crores as there has been deterioration in State's own resources during tht year.

(b) Transfers of resources to States are made on the recommendations of the Finance Commission and the Planning Commission. The State's entitlements are released on monthly/quarterly basis or reimbursed on the claims filed by the State Governments. The States are expected to mobilise their part of resources as agreed at the time of Annual Plan formulation so that implementation of the Annual Plan is not hampered. The Plan outlay for 1992-93 for Bihar was approved at Rs. 2202.73 crores based on the State Government's own resources of Rs. 574.25 crores, (i) Against the allocated normal Central assistance of Rs. 774.26 crores, an amount of Rs. 650.93 crores has so far been released to Bihar. In addition, plan deficit grant of Rs. 267.98 crores has been released in full. An amount of Rs. 34 crores has been released so far against the assumed Central assistance of Rs. 135 crores for externally aided projects^ based on the reimbursement claim filed by the State Government, (ii) As intimated by Minister of Coal, the coal cess dues payable to Bihar is Rs. 459 crores out of which Rs. 237 crores have been collected by Coal India Limited (CIL) and the balance amount was not billed to the consumers due to stay orders, Court orders, etc. Out of the recovered amount of Rs. 237 crores, Rs. 100 crores have already been paid to Bihar. Regarding the balance ; amount, the CIL has been advised to pay the full amount by March, 1993.

Sanctioning of Loans by Banks

3516. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the cases of sanctioning huge advances to certain concerns/companies by the banks without proper appraisal and observance of banking norms besides overlooking persistent shortcoming in the borrowers accounts have come to the notice of the RBI;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government for the illegal acts of the bank(s) concerned and misuse of delegated powers by the executives in credit decisions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The RBI have reported that the irregularities relating to sanction of different categories of advances which have come to their notice during the course of inspection or scrutiny relate to irregularities in extending credit by means of accommodation bills, sanctioning limits by exceeding the discretionary powers, oral or on ths spot sanction without adequate appraisal of the proposals, granting of limits not, commensurate with the credit requirements and allowing large co-acceptance facility, discounting with proper power of such co-acceptances from the controlling offices of the co-accepting banks.

RI3I have issued clear instructions requiring all the commercial banks to look into the staff accountability whenever there is loss or possibility of loss in any portfolio .of the bank and to award punishments to the delinquent officials so as to serve as warning to others. Besides, RBI also follows up closely the action taken for fixing staff accountability and award punishments to the errant officials. It also closely supervises and monitors the activities of, commercial banks through periodical inspections, by calling for various returns and inter-acting with the banks through action plan meetings etc.

Government as the disciplinary authority in respect of Board level appointees, has taken action where necessary.

Evasion of Excise Duty by the Anglo-French Textiles Mills

3517. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Excise Department imposed penalty of 12 lakhs for evasion of excise duty by the Anglo French Textiles Mills in Pondicherry which is one of the State Textiles Corporations;

(b) what is the total amount of excise duties payable by them for the last three years;